

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of October 30-November 3, 2006**

1. **Verizon Franchise:** Communications Director Lonni Moffet attended the County Council MFP Committee meeting on Monday, October 30 and the full Council Public Hearing on the 31st. Councilmember Williams is submitting testimony for the record. The committee will meet again on November 13 and plans to consider the Franchise for approval on the 28th. If this passes, staff will present the Agreement to the City Council in early December. *(City TV)*

2. **Landlord Fined for Illegal Rents (Ward 5):** Random checks are done periodically to ensure that landlords are complying with the Takoma Park Rent Stabilization Law. During an investigation of the rents at a 6-unit building on Hudson Avenue, staff discovered that the landlord was overcharging the tenants anywhere from \$79 - \$102 per month above what is allowed under the rent stabilization ordinance. Fines were issued to the landlord for charging the illegal rents. The landlord rolled back the rents and has reimbursed the tenants in amounts ranging from \$158.50 to \$304.00 for a total of \$1,273.50. *(Housing & Community Development)*

3. **Update - New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Initiative (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** Staff met with Montgomery County Department of Economic Development this afternoon to discuss ways the City might access resources available through the County to further the Council's redevelopment goals for the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. Additional information on the outcome of the meeting will be provided at a later date. *(Housing and Community Development)*

4. **Annual Halloween Event:** On October 28, the Recreation Department and the Takoma Park Lions Club held our annual Halloween Events. The Costume Contest, Parade and Bash were a huge success. There were more than 500 people at the events this year. The evening ended with a jammin' good time supplied by "The Dixie Power Trio." *(Recreation)*

5. **Canine Contest:** The Recreation Department and the Big Bad Woof partnered together on October 28, for the second annual Canine Costume Contest. A total of 33 pooches came dressed in their best Halloween gear! There were four categories: cutest, funniest, scariest, and most original. Doggie Style Bakery supplied doggie cake and Washington Animal Rescue League (WARL) took pictures of the dogs and their owners. All proceeds from the pictures went to help the animals of WARL. *(Recreation)*

6. **The Police on All Hallow's Eve:** On Halloween night, Cpl. Smith and Capt. Coursey supplemented regular patrol shifts, including Sgt. Hammond, Cpl. Wolff, Ofc. Butler and Ofc. Mitchell of the day shift, which held over, and Sgt. Bowers, Cpl. Carter, Ofc. Mueller and Ofc. Black of the night shift, who deployed early, to ensure maximum possible police presence on the neighborhood streets. There were several calls for service during the evening hours, but no significant offenses occurred during the detail. Community participation in "Trick or Treat" activity appeared much higher than in many recent years, in many City neighborhoods. *(Police)*

**7. New Police Officer:** On November 1, Pvt. Keith Hubley was sworn in by Mayor Porter as a newly appointed officer. Pvt. Hubley is assigned to Squad 1 and is undergoing the 90 day Field Training Program by Cpl. Rodriguez. *(Police)*

**8. Officers in Training:** On November 2 and 3, Dispatchers Fuller and Cooper attended a two day Advanced Law Enforcement Dispatchers training course hosted by Montgomery County Park Police. On November 3, Cpl. Smith and Ofc. Mueller attended an 8-hour course, All Hazards Disaster Mental Health training at Gallaudet University. *(Police)*

**9. Arrest Made (Ward 3):** On November 2, Mr. Mischa Walker, a Prince George's County resident, was indicted by a Montgomery County Grand Jury on 2 counts of attempted murder, 2 counts 1st degree assault and weapons charges stemming from the October 1 shooting at the International House of Pancakes in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Ave. *(Police)*

**10. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 2, 3, 4, and 5):** Officers conducted at least 62 traffic stops this week, 55 of which ended in written citations. More than half of the stops were made on Maple, New Hampshire, and Flower Avenues. *(Police)*

**11. Open Studio Tour and Holiday Art Sale (City-wide):** The Arts and Humanities Commission, in partnership with ASalon, are soliciting local artists for its Saturday, December 16 studio tour and holiday art sale. If you are interested in participating in the event and would like to open your studio for the tour or show your work at the Community Center, please contact the AHC at 301.891.7224 or by email at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org). Registrations are due Monday, November 20. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**12. TAG Fall Exhibit and Opening Reception (City-wide):** The Takoma Artists Guild (TAG) will be hosting its annual fall exhibit in the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries during the month of November. The exhibit features the work of TAG members and will include a variety of mediums. A reception celebrating the exhibit will be held this coming Sunday, November 5th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The reception is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. Poetry Reading (City-wide):** This month's poetry reading, sponsored by Poet Laureate Don Berger in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Commission, will take place on Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Community Center. The reading will feature the work of local poets Laura Brown and Roseanne Singer. The reading is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Housing and Community Development Interns (City-wide):** The HCD Department is pleased to welcome Ms. Charlotte Youngblood to the City. Ms. Youngblood is one of three part-time interns working with the Department on projects designed to further the economic development and affordable housing goals identified by the Council during its FY07 budget discussion. Charlotte will be working with Mr. Martin Salmon, who has been with the Department for roughly a year, on the redevelopment of the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. Ms. Jemma Weymouth is

assisting Code Enforcement and Affordable Housing staff with the Department's inventory of the exterior condition of all residential, commercial, institutional and public structures and properties in the community. The inventory is being conducted as a part of the City's effort to address concerns regarding vacant and neglected properties in the city. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Vote for Art (City-wide):** The Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Commission is asking for the donation of used political lawn signs for a Spring 2007 Public Art Project. All types and sizes of are being accepted. The signs are being collected as part of the Commission's Spring "Vote For Art" Public Art Project. The donated signs will be white washed and the public will be invited to create a "new" campaign sign promoting a cause significant to them. Art supplies will be provided. All of the final designs will be unveiled on neighborhood lawns throughout the city of Takoma Park on Arts Advocacy Day, March 13, 2007. The project's goal is to bring attention to the creativity of Takoma Park as well highlight the importance of supporting arts and arts education programs in the public schools. For more information contact Sara Daines at 301-891-7224 or by email at [AHC@takomagov.org](mailto:AHC@takomagov.org). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. Takoma Junction Walk Through (Ward 1):** HCD and PW staff met with representatives of the Old Takoma Main Street program's Design Committee on Friday, October 27, to "walk" Takoma Junction. A list of maintenance related items - ie the replacement of specific trash and recycling containers, graffiti removal, the replacement of dead or dying vegetation, and the removable of obsolete signage - was compiled and will be addressed over the next couple of months. A similar walk of the Old Town area is scheduled for later this month. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**17. "Hit the Wall" Mural Project (City-wide):** The Arts and Humanities Commission is exploring the feasibility of partnering with "Arts on the Block" to undertake a community mural project as part of its "Hit the Wall" effort to beautify the flood wall around the lower level parking lot. Funding options including a grant from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation's artists & communities program - a program which provides matching funds for projects which support partnerships between visiting artists and non-profit organizations which are engaged in Community-based projects - are under consideration. Additional information will be provided later in November. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**18. Green Building Expo (City-wide):** HCD staff have begun initial efforts to coordinate a Green Building Expo at the Community Center on Sunday, February 18, 2007. The event will include tables and exhibits featuring services and products provided by "green" vendors, workshops and a keynote speaker. Additional information will be provided as plans develop. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**19. Reading Pets:** A new Library program is using trained therapy dogs to help children enjoy reading and improve their reading skills. Each Monday between 4:00 and 5:00, Ann Riley of Pets On Wheels of Prince George's County and her daughter visit the Library with their two dogs, who are specially trained to be calm and interested listeners as children read books to them for 10 or 15 minutes. This concept, which has been introduced at other Libraries, allows children to practice their reading aloud to a

sympathetic canine companion. Those interested may sign up ahead of time at the Library. *(Library)*

**20. An Evening with Native Americans:** On Monday, November 6, Tomas Shash "Eaglebear" returns with family members for an evening of dances, stories and songs from the Xicano and Apache cultures. *(Library)*

**21. Book Sale:** The next Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held from 10 AM to 3 PM on December 9 in the Computer Learning Center Lobby. This Fall's outdoor sale had to be postponed due to water damage to some of the donated books. Those wishing to donate books or help at the sale may contact Ellen Robbins at the Library. *(Library)*

**22. Children's Book Week:** On Monday, November 13 at 7:30 PM, a special party will celebrate Children's Book Week and highlight some of the Takoma Park Library's many resources. Local poet and educator Rosanne Singer will lead children's efforts to express themselves through poetry and art. Call the Library at 301-891-7259 for more information. *(Library)*

**23. The Reading Club:** The next Friends Reading Club meeting will be held Wednesday, December 6, and will feature a discussion of "All the King's Men" by three time Pulitzer Prize winning author Robert Penn Warren. Books are available in the Library. The discussion will be held in the Community Center Atrium from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. *(Library)*